

August 27, 2007

## **NRCS Announces Initial Cut-off Date to Apply for Wetlands Reserve Program**

*Lakewood, CO* - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced that **August 31, 2007** will be the initial cut-off date for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) applications to be considered for fiscal year 2008 funding.

The accelerated timeline for WRP is intended to provide program participants and NRCS staff more time for quality wetlands restoration planning and economic analysis.

*“WRP is a continuous signup program for producers but, by implementing an early initial cut-off date, we hope to provide program participants and staff better efficiencies in delivering conservation on the ground,”* said Tim Carney, USDA-NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

The NRCS is getting back to the basics by putting conservation planning at the forefront of its program initiatives. Though conservation plans are not required in order to participate in any of the NRCS programs, it is strongly suggested that landowners develop one because, in doing so, it will provide them with an inventory and assessment of their resources and a right start to the enhancement and improvement of the quality of their soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance natural wetlands on their property. This program

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offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

For more information about WRP, contact Gary Finstad, Easements Coordinator, USDA-NRCS, at 720-544-2820, or email him at [gary.finstad@co.usda.gov](mailto:gary.finstad@co.usda.gov).

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